

**Listing of Claims**

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-17 Canceled.

18. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1.

19. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising the complement of DNA capable of hybridizing under moderately stringent conditions to the DNA of SEQW ID NO:1 wherein the moderately stringent condition include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS, and, wherein the DNA encodes a polypeptide that is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

20. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule encoding a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of SEQ ID NO:2.

21. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid molecule comprising a DNA encoding a polypeptide comprising the amino acids of SEQ ID NO:2.

22. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA encoding a polypeptide, wherein said polypeptide comprises an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to amino acids  $x_1$  to 356 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein  $x_1$  is amino acid 1 or 15.

23. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA encoding a soluble polypeptide comprising amino acids  $x_1$  to 356 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein  $x_1$  is amino acid 1 or 15.

24. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid comprising a DNA that encodes a polypeptide comprising a fragment of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

25. (withdrawn) An isolated nucleic acid comprising DNA that encodes a polypeptide comprising a fragment that is at least 80% identical to SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

26. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid selected from the group consisting of

- (a) SEQ ID NO:2.
- (b) fragments of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein the fragment is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

27. (previously presented) A isolated polypeptide comprising a polypeptide encoded by DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) the complement of DNA capable of hybridizing under moderately stringent conditions to the DNA of SEQ ID NO:1, wherein the moderately stringent condition include 50% formamide and 6XSSC, at 42°C with washing conditions of 60°C, 0.5XSSC, 0.1% SDS, and, wherein the DNA encodes a polypeptide that is a cofactor in IL-18 binding; and
- (c) DNA that is degenerate to the DNA of SEQ ID NO:1.

28. (previously presented) An isolated polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that is at least 80% identical to a sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acids  $x_1$  to 356 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein  $x_1$  is amino acid 1 or 15; and
- (b) fragments of SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the fragment is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

29. (previously presented) A polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acids  $x_1$  to 356 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein  $x_1$  is amino acid 1 or 15; and
- (b) fragments of SEQ ID NO:2 wherein the fragment is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

30. (previously presented) A fusion protein comprising the Fc region of Ig a polypeptide selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) amino acids  $x_1$  to 356 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein  $x_1$  is amino acid 1 or 15; and
- (b) a fragment of (a), wherein the fragment is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.
- (c) A polypeptide that is at least 80% identical to (a), wherein the polypeptide is a cofactor in IL-18 binding.

31. (withdrawn) A recombinant expression vector comprising a DNA selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the coding region of SEQ ID NO:1;
- (b) a DNA encoding amino acids x1 to 356 of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein x1 is amino acid 1 or 15; and
- (c) a DNA encoding an polypeptide that is at least 80% identical to the polypeptide of (b).

32. (withdrawn) A process for preparing a polypeptide, the process comprising culturing a host cell transformed with an expression vector of claim 31 under conditions that promote expression of the polypeptide.

33. (withdrawn) A host cell transformed or transfected with an expression vector according to claim 32.

34. (withdrawn) An antibody that is immunoreactive with a polypeptide of claim 26.